

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Final Official Action, claims 8 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over WELLS (U.S. Patent No. 3,830,131) in view of GAGNE (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0069738 A1) or CHIANG (U.S. Patent No. 6,772,664 B2). Claims 8, 12, 13, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over WELLS in view of GAGNE or CHIANG, and further in view of BRANDSTADTER (U.S. Patent No. 5,178,405).

Upon entry of the amendment, claims 8, 12, 13, and 17 have been amended. Claims 1-7, 9-11, 14-16, and 18-21 were previously withdrawn from consideration. Thus, claims 8, 12, 13, and 17 are currently pending for consideration by the Examiner.

Pursuant to M.P.E.P. §714.13, Applicants submit that entry of the present amendment is appropriate because the proposed amended claims avoid the rejections set forth in the Final Official Action, resulting in the application being placed in condition for allowance, or alternatively, the revised claims place the application in better condition for purposes of appeal to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences. Accordingly, entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 8 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over WELLS in view of GAGNE or CHIANG. The Final Official Action asserts that WELLS' Figure 1 discloses a band saw machine that includes an endless saw blade (52), a driving wheel (43), a driven wheel (50), a saw blade driver (45) coupled to the driving wheel by a pulley system (46-48), and a saw blade housing (49 and 51). The Final Official Action also asserts that WELLS' column 3, lines 1-15, discloses that the saw blade driver is readily floatable and movable relative to the saw blade driver. The Final Official Action further asserts that WELLS' Figure 1

discloses a buffer (32 and 33) that controls the rotating direction of the saw blade and is provided at the saw blade housing, which automatically dampens a reaction force caused by the saw blade. The Final Official Action acknowledges that WELLS fails to disclose that the casing of the saw blade driving unit floats rotationally around the driving wheel shaft. However, the Final Official Action asserts that both GAGNE and CHIANG teach this feature.

Applicants traverse the rejection of claims 8 and 13 as being obvious in view of the combination of WELLS and GAGNE, as well as the combination of WELLS and CHIANG. Nevertheless, in order to expedite the prosecution of the present application to allowance, Applicants have amended independent claims 8 and 13 to further distinguish the claims over the applied prior art.

Amended independent claims 8 and 13 each explicitly recite that *the buffer comprises a disc rotationally driven by an electric motor coupled to an engaging member that is in contact with the casing of the saw blade driver*. Applicants submit that neither WELLS and GAGNE, nor WELLS and CHIANG, disclose or render obvious at least this feature of claims 8 and 13.

With regard to the claimed “buffer”, the Final Official Action asserts that WELLS’ roller guide assemblies (32 and 33) for the endless saw blade correspond to this feature. Applicants respectfully submit that WELLS’s roller guide assemblies are not buffers. Applicants submit that these assemblies primarily guide the saw blade, and have nothing to do with the claimed controlling of the rotating direction of the saw blade driver. Additionally, Applicants submit that these assemblies are definitely not an active buffer designed to control and dampen the rotational reaction force on the saw blade driver that is generated by the driving of the saw blade. Furthermore, Applicants submit that WELLS fails to provide any disclosure relating to a buffer that includes a disc rotationally driven by an electric motor couple to an engaging member that is

in contact with the casing of a saw blade driver. Applicants further submit that neither GAGNE nor CHIANG remedy the buffer deficiencies of WELLS discussed above.

Thus, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants submit that claims 8 and 13 would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention in view of the cited references. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 8 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over WELLS in view of GAGNE or CHIANG be withdrawn..

Claims 8, 12, 13, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over WELLS in view of GAGNE or CHIANG, and further in view of BRANDSTADTER. As an initial matter, Applicants note that although the Final Official Action has included independent claims 8 and 13 in this rejection, claims 8 and 13 are not discussed in the body of the rejection. Nevertheless, as discussed above, amended independent claims 8 and 13 each explicitly recite that *the buffer comprises a disc rotationally driven by an electric motor coupled to an engaging member that is in contact with the casing of the saw blade driver*. Applicants respectfully submit that BRANDSTADTER fails to remedy the buffer deficiencies of WELLS discussed above.

More specifically, Applicants submit that BRANDSTADTER fails to disclose a buffer that includes a disc rotationally driven by an electric motor coupled to an engaging member that is in contact with the casing of a saw blade driver. In contrast, BRANDSTADTER appears to disclose an active electrohydraulic damper control system to override the passive hydromechanical damper control system at particular periods of an operation of a vehicle suspension system. Applicants submit that neither BRANDSTADTER's electrohydraulic

damper control system nor BRANDSTADTER's hydromechanical damper control system disclose the explicitly recited buffer features of amended independent claims 8 and 13.

Further, amended dependent claims 12 and 17 explicitly recite that *the buffer is a vibration generator for applying a vibration to the casing of the saw blade driver*. Applicants submit that BRANDSTADTER distinctly fails to disclose a buffer that includes a disc driven by an electric motor coupled to an engaging member that is a vibration generator for applying a vibration to a casing, or to anything for that matter. Applicants submit that BRANDSTADTER's active damping (active control loop), cited in the Final Official Action, is not a vibration generator and does not apply vibrations to a casing. As mentioned above, BRANDSTADTER's active damping is related to an active electrohydraulic damper control system, which Applicants submit does not generate and does not apply vibrations as explicitly recited in claims 12 and 17.

Thus, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants submit that claims 8, 12, 13, and 17 would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention in view of the references cited above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 8, 12, 13, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

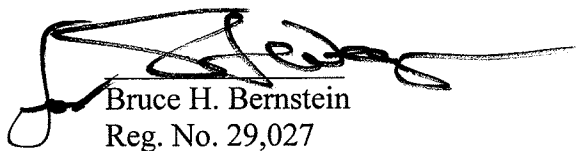
SUMMARY

From the amendments, arguments, and remarks provided above, Applicants submit that all of the claims pending for consideration in the present application are patentable over the references cited by the Examiner, either alone or in combination. Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Final Official Action is respectfully requested and an indication of allowance of claims 8, 12, 13, and 17 is now believed to be appropriate.

Applicants note that this amendment is being made to advance prosecution of the application to allowance, and should not be considered as surrendering the equivalents of the territory between the claims prior to the present amendment and the amended claims. Further, no acquiescence as to the propriety of the Examiner's rejections is made by the present amendment. All other amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
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